

OU# 07-071

Phoenix-Goodyear Airport Area/Western Avenue Plume Community Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.
Goodyear City Hall, Room 117
190 N. Litchfield Road
Goodyear, Arizona

MINUTES

CAG members present: Diane Krone, Thomas Jones, and Bob Smith

Members absent: Susan Kagan, Sheri Michele Lauritano, and Dr. Fred Scott

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Linda Mariner, Community Involvement Coordinator, and Harry Hendler, Federal Projects Unit Manager

EPA Staff in attendance: Mary Aycok, Remedial Project Manager; Viola Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator; and José García, new Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the public present:

Shawn Bradford, City of Goodyear, Water Resources Director
Brenda Holland, City of Goodyear Council Member
David Iwanski, City of Goodyear, Water Resources
Marvin Unger, Hydrogeologic

The following matters were presented at the meeting. However, a quorum of CAG members was not present; therefore, no business could be conducted.

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Ms. Diane Krone, CAG co-chair, welcomed everyone and facilitated the meeting. CAG members and all meeting attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Krone explained the purpose of the meeting to find out more information regarding the City's brownfields project, which is Crane Company's required supplemental environmental project (SEP) as part of their consent decree with EPA.

2. City of Goodyear's Brownfields Project Community Involvement Requirements – Dave Iwanski, City of Goodyear Water Resources, Brownfields Project Manager

Mr. Iwanski gave an update on the progress that the City has made in completing the contract that was submitted to EPA. He explained a major issue of concern by EPA for the City's brownfields project contract before it can be approved was that EPA wanted the City to better define what a reimbursable expense would be for the project; i.e., administrative costs vs. Phase I and II assessment costs. Wells Fargo will oversee the account to manage the money dedicated

to the project. The environmental professional that has been selected for the project team is Brown and Caldwell Engineering, Inc., and their name will go before the City Council for approval. The project team will work on selecting the initial 24 sites for the project. Mr. Iwanski reminded the CAG that brownfields are environmental projects that need cleanup with the ultimate goal of redevelopment.

Ms. Krone asked for more basic clarification on what final results were expected from this Brownfields project that differs from a simple cleanup project. Mr. Iwanski explained that according to the basic agreement in the consent decree, the City will do a Phase I environmental assessment to identify the extent of the contamination for up to 24 individual sites. After the assessments are done for those 24 sites, a Citizens Committee and the City's Economic Development Department will prioritize those sites and pick out three or four sites to receive a Phase II assessment, which is a much more in-depth environmental study. Ms. Krone was concerned that if a private property was chosen, it would complicate the process. Ms. Aycock explained that typically only public properties were considered for SEPs.

Mr. Jones asked what criteria would be used to pick the priority sites. Mr. Iwanski reported that EPA and ADEQ have parameters that will be included on a check list to be used to prioritize the sites. This check list will be made available to the citizens committee. Mr. Bradford explained that the assessments only identify and characterize the contamination but no cleanup will be done during that time. The ultimate decision on the exact sites chosen for redevelopment will be made by the mayor and council.

Mr. Smith asked who would be paying for the cleanup of these sites once they are identified. Mr. Iwanski didn't have an answer, but he suggested that it might be done by public and private partnerships. Ms. Aycock said that part of the assessment is to find who any responsible parties may be who might be required to pay for the cleanup. She also pointed out that EPA has some grants available for the cleanups.

Mr. Smith also asked what properties were covered under the definition of public property. Mr. Iwanski's own definition was anything that the City, County, or State owned or leased might be considered public property. However, this interpretation would have to be agreed upon by legal counsel and ADEQ and EPA.

3. EPA Community Advisory Group (CAG) Guidelines – Viola Cooper, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

Before Ms. Cooper made her presentation, Ms. Aycock announced that José García will be replacing Ms. Cooper as the site's Community Involvement Coordinator for EPA. Mr. García has been with EPA for five months and is a graduate from the University of Michigan.

Ms. Cooper showed a PowerPoint presentation on why and how CAGs are formed and what the role and responsibilities are for the members of the CAG. She mentioned that there is a CAG handbook that Mr. Garcia can bring the next time if the CAG members are interested in seeing it. EPA does not restrict topics for CAG meetings, but they encourage that they stay on site-related topics because of the time constraints. CAGs are ultimately responsible to take the information they learn back to their communities and to take the concerns of the community to EPA.

Ms. Krone asked where EPA stood on the CAG being the advisory group for the brownfields project if it was under EPA direction. Ms. Aycock responded that she had asked the EPA attorneys this very question, and their counsel was that there needed to be two different committees even though the two could have the same members.

Mr. Iwanski asked who would appoint the members of the CAG if and when a new CAG needed to be created. Ms. Cooper said that they don't really appoint members. Everyone who is interested can join the CAG. Mr. Jones asked if the City was going to go out and ask for volunteers to serve on the citizen's committee for this brownfields project. Mr. Iwanski explained that they have already identified nine interested community members to serve on a citizen's advisory committee if the CAG is unable to combine their meeting with the brownfields project. In trying to look at all of the CAG's options for participation in the City's Brownfields Project, Ms. Mariner asked what procedures the CAG would need to follow to re-establish themselves as an EPA-sponsored CAG in the event that the WQARF charter went away. Ms. Cooper responded that there were no formal procedures to transfer the CAG to an EPA lead.

4. WQARF Guidelines for Community Advisory Boards – Linda Mariner, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator

Ms. Mariner explained that the CAG currently functions under their WQARF CAG charter. She showed the CAG members in paragraph I in their charter that "The purpose of the CAG is to promote community awareness and obtain the opportunity for the public to provide input on issues and concerns related to the sites." The "sites" refers to the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport Superfund Site and the Western Avenue Plume WQARF Site as noted in the title of the charter. Therefore, the brownfields project site issues cannot be addressed at the CAG meetings while the CAG is under the WQARF charter.

Ms. Krone responded that it wouldn't seem helpful to transfer to an EPA CAG at this time since EPA has advised that they would not want the CAG meetings utilized for the Brownfields Project citizens' advisory committee. Ms. Aycock clarified that in the event that the WQARF site is delisted and the charter goes away, then the CAG would automatically be under EPA guidance and direction. EPA would then be responsible for the administrative support to the CAG.

Ms. Krone summarized the discussion by noting that the agencies had effectively answered the question in the negative as to whether the CAG meetings can be utilized by the City for their Brownfield's Project community involvement needs.

5. Acceptance and/or Changes to Minutes of September 14, 2006

No action could be taken. This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting when a quorum of CAG members can approve the minutes to stand as read.

6. CAG Membership Recruiting

Ms. Krone asked if it was possible to have the CAG applications be sent out to the community to stir up some more interest. EPA staff believed that they could insert that information into their upcoming fact sheet for PGA-North. ADEQ and EPA would coordinate their efforts to try to help with recruitment.

7. Call to the Public - None

8. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Discussion

The next CAG meeting was tentatively set for February 8, 2007 when EPA is hoping to have the flow model for PGA-North completed and ready to be presented to the CAG.

10. Adjournment